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14
15 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
16 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

17 IN RE: JUUL LABS, INC., MARKETING,
18 SALES PRACTICES, AND PRODUCTS
19 LIABILITY LITIGATION

Case No. 19-md-02913-WHO

**DEFENDANTS' RESPONSE TO
PLAINTIFF'S TRIAL PLAN AND
BRIEF ON RELATED LEGAL ISSUES**

20 This Document Relates to:

21 *San Francisco Unified School District v. Juul*
22 *Labs, Inc., et al.*

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INTRODUCTION

With trial less than a month away, SFUSD’s trial plan remains vague and unrealistic. There is broad agreement that the jury should hear and decide key liability questions in this case, including whether Defendants are liable for SFUSD’s public nuisance, negligence, and RICO claims, and that the Court should decide abatement (if necessary) in a separate phase. *Id.* But bifurcating these closely intertwined issues requires careful planning to ensure the jury’s findings on key issues such as whether a nuisance exists, the nature and scope of that nuisance, and the specific conduct that was a substantial factor in causing the alleged nuisance, are honored in any later abatement proceedings. SFUSD has no plan, and its “we’ll figure it out later” approach virtually guarantees the upcoming trial will violate the Seventh Amendment’s re-examination clause.

SFUSD’s lack of a plan for the expert testimony of Michael Dorn illustrate all these problems. Mr. Dorn was retained to identify “sustainable prevention and intervention strategies” SFUSD can take to “prevent and address student use of e-cigarettes on school property.” This is a classic abatement opinion, as is his opinion about the “remediation costs” necessary to implement those strategies. For the first time in its summary judgment opposition, however, SFUSD recharacterizes Mr. Dorn as a damages expert and his remediation costs as “future damages.” *See* SFUSD MSJ Opp. (Dkt. 3447) at 102–103. Yet SFUSD will not disavow having Mr. Dorn present testimony about the same prevention and intervention strategies in the abatement phase; it cannot make that commitment because SFUSD’s other abatement experts rely on Mr. Dorn’s opinions to support their proposed plans. Indeed, in its summary judgment opposition, SFUSD argues that “[r]ecoverable damages can overlap with abatement costs.” *Id.* at 105. This position invites a textbook re-examination clause violation. If the jury does not award SFUSD all of Mr. Dorn’s proposed remediation costs, SFUSD will take another run at recovering those costs at the trial’s later abatement phase.

Compounding this problem, SFUSD has not proposed any verdict form questions that will reveal whether the jury accepted Mr. Dorn’s opinions and the amount of remediation costs it awarded. The Court and the parties will have to try to divine answers to those questions from a black-box jury verdict, and will have to guess after the fact whether disputes at the abatement phase

1 re-examine issues the jury already decided. The Seventh Amendment does not permit this guessing
2 game. And basic principles governing bifurcation do not either: a bifurcated trial “may not properly
3 be resorted to unless it clearly appears that the issue to be retried is so distinct and separable from
4 the others that a trial of it alone may be had without injustice.” *Gasoline Prods. Co. v. Champlin*
5 *Refining Co.*, 283 U.S. 494, 500 (1931).

6 The problems with how SFUSD approaches Mr. Dorn’s testimony is emblematic of a larger
7 problem with SFUSD’s trial plan. An abatement remedy must be tailored to remediating a specific
8 nuisance. When the parties litigate whether SFUSD’s proposed abatement plans are appropriate,
9 they will thus inevitably re-litigate the scope and contributing factors behind SFUSD’s alleged
10 nuisance unless the verdict in the Phase 1 trial precisely defines the nuisance and identifies the
11 specific actions that contributed to that nuisance. SFUSD has no plan for putting on a trial that will
12 accomplish that. Every expert who testifies in both Phase 1 and Phase 3 will address deeply
13 intertwined issues. And SFUSD’s abatement experts, such as Drs. Kelder, Cutler, and Drumwright,
14 all look to the past to predict the nuisance that will exist in the future. This too requires re-examining
15 what the jury already decided unless those opinions are constrained by a clear Phase 1 result. The
16 Court cannot fix these problems after the Phase 1 trial, as SFUSD proposes. By then, the jury will
17 have already returned its verdict and it will be too late.

18 Thus, Defendants request that the Court require SFUSD to take two steps to guard
19 Defendants’ Seventh Amendment rights. First, SFUSD must specify whether Mr. Dorn will testify
20 only in the Phase 1 (the liability and compensatory damages) or Phase 3 (abatement) portions of the
21 trial. He cannot testify in both phases. Second, the Court should order SFUSD to offer a concrete
22 plan addressing how to ensure the jury’s verdict meaningfully guides an appropriate abatement
23 remedy. Both of these steps are necessary, so that if an abatement phase is necessary, the Court can
24 best “follow the jury’s implicit or explicit factual determinations” when determining appropriate
25 relief for SFUSD’s equitable claims. *Teutscher v. Woodson*, 835 F.3d 936, 944 (9th Cir. 2016).

1 ARGUMENT

2 “The Seventh Amendment provides that ‘no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-
3 examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.’” *Acosta*
4 *v. City of Costa Mesa*, 718 F.3d 800, 828–29 (9th Cir. 2013) (quoting U.S. Const. amend. VII).
5 “Thus, in a case where legal claims are tried by a jury and equitable claims are tried by a judge, and
6 the claims are based on the same facts, in deciding the equitable claims the Seventh Amendment
7 requires the trial judge to follow the jury’s implicit or explicit factual determinations.” *Id.*
8 (quotations omitted); *Los Angeles Police Protective League v. Gates*, 995 F.2d 1449, 1473 (9th Cir.
9 1993) (same). “[I]t would be a violation of the seventh amendment right to jury trial for the court
10 to disregard a jury’s finding of fact.” *Los Angeles Police Protective League*, 995 F.2d at 1473; *see*
11 *also Kaneka Corp. v. SKC Kolon PI, Inc.*, 198 F. Supp. 3d 1089, 1115 (C.D. Cal. 2016) (“[W]here
12 there is substantial commonality between the factual questions presented by legal and equitable
13 claims, a jury’s finding of fact pertinent to the legal claim constrains the court’s equitable
14 determination.” (quotations omitted)). Importantly, the Seventh Amendment requires that even
15 implied findings must be followed: “rather than being limited to the face of the verdict, the jury’s
16 findings include any factual findings that the verdict’s contents necessarily imply.” *In re EPD Inv.*
17 *Co., LLC*, 2020 WL 6937351, at *3 (Bankr. C.D. Cal. Oct. 29, 2020).

18 SFUSD’s trial plan does not adequately guard against the risk of re-examination because (i)
19 there is overlap between its proposed remedial damages and abatement relief, and because (ii) the
20 trial plan does not offer any concrete steps to ensure the Phase I verdict is sufficient to guide the
21 Court’s determination of an appropriate abatement remedy. SFUSD plans to attack every aspect of
22 JLI’s business at trial—from its marketing campaigns that varied widely over time, to its nicotine
23 formulation, to the size and shape of its devices—without any plan for determining what conduct
24 (if any) the jury decides contributed to a nuisance. It further asserts a sprawling nuisance that
25 spanned several years and extends from SFUSD’s schools to beyond SFUSD’s attendance
26 boundaries. Yet it again has no proposal for how to decipher the geographic and temporal scope of
27 any nuisance found by the jury or even how to determine what the jury finds the precise nuisance
28 is. And SFUSD has no idea how to structure the phase three abatement proceeding so it does not

1 re-examine any of the jury’s explicit or implicit findings, admitting that it will figure it out later.
2 But identifying a workable trial plan cannot wait any longer. The time to make a plan is now.

3 **I. THE COURT SHOULD REQUIRE THAT SFUSD SPECIFY WHETHER ITS**
4 **DAMAGES EXPERT MR. DORN WILL TESTIFY ONLY IN PHASE 1 OR PHASE 3**
5 **OF THE TRIAL.**

6 SFUSD’s requested damages and abatement remedies overlap and so create Seventh
7 Amendment risks. These risks are apparent from SFUSD’s own contradictory descriptions of its
8 requested remedies—which have shifted even from a few weeks ago. Thus, in its Trial Plan Brief,
9 SFUSD argues that “compensatory damages are just that: compensatory,” and that their “proper
10 measure is that which will make good or replace the loss caused by the injury.” Dkt. 3534 at 3.
11 Relying on *People v. ConAgra Grocery Prods. Co.*, 17 Cal. App. 5th 51 (2017), the district expressly
12 contrasts abatement and damages: “the distinction between an abatement order and a damages
13 award is stark.” *Id.* at 4; *see also ConAgra*, 17 Cal. App.5th at 132–33 (“An equitable remedy’s
14 sole purpose is to eliminate the hazard that is causing prospective harm to the plaintiff. An equitable
15 remedy provides no compensation to a plaintiff for prior harm. Damages, on the other hand, are
16 directed at compensating the plaintiff for prior accrued harm that has resulted from the defendant’s
17 wrongful conduct.”).

18 The district took the exact opposite position only recently. In opposing Defendants’ motions
19 for summary judgment and *Daubert* filings, it argued that “there [i]s nothing inherently erroneous
20 about the award of remediation costs as future damages.” *See* SFUSD MSJ Opp. at 102–103. Thus
21 three weeks ago, the district believed that the differences between abatement and damages were not
22 “stark” at all; rather, it argued that “[r]ecoverable damages can overlap with abatement costs.” *Id.*
23 at 105; *see also* SFUSD *Daubert* Opp. (Dkt. 3458) at 33 n.19 (“[E]verything addressed by [several
24 of its] experts potentially goes to the abatement remedy,” even though “elements of these experts’
25 opinions go to compensatory damages as well.”). This is particularly true as the key expert SFUSD
26 now intends to offer to support its only-recently-discovered future damages claim, Mr. Dorn, bases
27 his damages estimates on what he believes it will cost to remediate future harms. SFUSD retained
28 Dorn to “[i]dentify and evaluate necessary, practical, and sustainable prevention and intervention
strategies that can be developed and customized to fit the local conditions to enable SFUSD to

1 effectively prevent and address student use of e-cigarettes on school property.” 1/28/2022 Dorn
2 Rep. at 8. Dorn offers the opinion that \$78.8 million worth of “enhancements” to SFUSD’s property
3 can “create a practical and sustainable comprehensive approach which will make it unlikely that a
4 student could regularly and repeatedly use e-cigarettes on SFUSD school campuses.” *Id.* at 92, 97.

5 There is no discernible difference between this “remediation” of future harms—which the
6 jury will consider in Phase 1—and the “abatement” of those same harms that the Court will consider
7 in Phase 3. Indeed, Dr. Jonathan Winickoff’s abatement plan—which SFUSD purports to rely on
8 at Phase 3—relies on the “reports of Michael Dorn and Robert Rollo for specific recommendations”
9 associated with abatement via e-cigarette monitoring, detection, and deterrence. *See* 1/28/2022
10 Winickoff Rep. at 75.¹ That creates a Seventh Amendment problem: if Dorn is permitted to testify
11 in both Phase 1 and Phase 3, there is a risk that his recommendations will become part of an
12 abatement plan, even if the jury rejects those same theories in Phase 1.

13 The Seventh Amendment problem is obvious. If the jury holds Defendants liable on
14 SFUSD’s claims, it will then have to decide “[w]hat amount of compensatory damages have been
15 proven.” Dkt. 3534 at 2. If the jury decides not to award the amounts recommended by Mr. Dorn,
16 then it will have made an implicit finding that that amount is not needed to remediate future harms—
17 and thus that these same amounts are not needed as part of any abatement remedy. *See, e.g., In re*
18 *EPD Investment Co., LLC*, 2020 WL 6937351, at *19 (examining implicit findings); *Teutscher*, 835
19 F.3d at 947 (reversing the district court’s equitable determination, where the court “contravened the
20 findings of fact implicit in the jury’s damages verdict”).

21 In *Teutscher*, for example, the Ninth Circuit considered whether the jury’s decision *not* to
22 award a particular kind of damages (“front pay”) on a state-law claim “foreclosed the district court
23 from granting front pay on [the plaintiff’s] ERISA claim.” 835 F.3d at 947. The Ninth Circuit
24

25 ¹ The other expert opinions SFUSD is likely to rely on at Phase 1 faces the same issue. Those
26 experts, like Dorn, opine about interventions designed to detect and identify student vaping and
27 intervene in order to reduce the future level of student vaping. *See, e.g.,* 1/28/2022 Halpern-Felsher
28 Rep. at 188 (detailing need for measures to “[m]itigate and [r]educ[e] [y]outh [u]se”); 1/28/2022 Rollo
Rep. at 1 (basing report on Dorn’s “mitigation strategies”). Put differently, they propose abatement
remedies and detail the associated costs.

1 “agreed” that the remedy was foreclosed by the Seventh Amendment. *Id.* The problem was that
2 front pay as to either claim “turn[ed] on the same issues of fact,” even though one claim was legal
3 and the other equitable. *Id.* at 948. So too here: whether the jury believes future “remediation”
4 costs are necessary to make SFUSD whole will inevitably guide whatever “abatement” could also
5 be awarded. This means that if Dorn testifies in both Phase 1 (liability and compensatory damages)
6 and Phase 3 (abatement), then SFUSD will improperly invite the Court to re-examine the jury’s
7 earlier factual findings, compromising Defendants’ Seventh Amendment rights and risking
8 significant prejudice.

9 To avoid this problem, SFUSD needs to immediately specify when Mr. Dorn will appear at
10 trial. And it must do so before the court hears argument on the pending summary judgment
11 motions—arguments that the briefing shows will turn, in part, on whether Mr. Dorn is offering a
12 damages opinion or an abatement opinion. If SFUSD chooses to forego seeking future “remedial”
13 damages on its legal claims, then SFUSD could avoid re-examination by specifying that Dorn will
14 testify only in Phase 3 (abatement). Alternatively, if SFUSD continues to seek those future remedial
15 damages, then the court should make clear that Mr. Dorn will testify only in Phase 1 of the trial,
16 recognizing that the jury’s determination of whether to grant the remedial damages will guide the
17 scope of any abatement award (and that that award may be limited by available legal relief, *see* JLI
18 MSJ Reply (Dkt. 3520) at 12–14). What the Court should not do, however, is leave it up to SFUSD
19 when to present Mr. Dorn’s testimony, or permit the testimony in both phases of trial, allowing
20 SFUSD to re-litigate the jury’s determinations regarding what forward-looking remediation is
21 necessary to make it whole.² That approach poses significant practical and constitutional problems
22 and so is not permissible here. *See, e.g., Teutscher*, 835 F.3d at 947.

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27 ² There is, in truth, only one viable option for when Mr. Dorn should testify. As Defendants explain
28 in their forthcoming motions in limine, Mr. Dorn characterized his opinions as abatement opinions
and he should not be permitted to offer those opinions in Phase 1.

1 **II. A REALISTIC TRIAL PLAN MUST GUIDE THE JURY TO BE SPECIFIC ABOUT**
2 **THE SCOPE OF ANY PUBLIC NUISANCE.**

3 Similar concerns also require that the jury be specific about the scope of any nuisance it
4 finds. It is appropriate for the jury to determine whether Defendants are liable in nuisance: “a jury
5 as of right will determine plaintiff’s still-viable legal claims, and there exist[s] potential factual
6 overlap between the plaintiffs’ legal RICO and state analogue claims and defendants’ liability for
7 nuisance.” Dkt. 3534 at 6 (citing *In re Nat’l Prescription Opiate Litig.*, No. 17-2804, 2019 WL
8 4621690, at *2 (N.D. Ohio Sept. 24, 2019)). As SFUSD says, “entrusting the liability decision to
9 the jury [i]s the safer course.” *Id.*

10 Yet SFUSD’s trial plan does not make clear *what* nuisance the jury will be finding (or not
11 finding). SFUSD appears to conceive of nuisance liability as a binary choice—*e.g.*, was there a
12 nuisance, yes or no. If the jury answers yes, then SFUSD would present separate evidence in an
13 abatement phase, which it admits will be “community-based” in scope. *Id.* at 4. Its abatement
14 experts, Kelder and Winickoff, then make their own characterizations of the supposed nuisance:
15 Kelder argues that ENDS usage in SFUSD schools rose for a several-year period, and implicitly
16 supposes that this trend will continue without intervention: “SFUSD . . . needs more resources, staff
17 time, and a more comprehensive abatement plan.” Kelder Rep. at 14–16, 28. Winickoff likewise
18 extrapolates from past trends and contends that there is a “need to take aggressive and
19 comprehensive steps to abate the problem.” Winickoff Rep. at 44. Neither of these experts contends
20 with the reality that youth ENDS usage has “sharply declined” nationally, as reflected in national
21 2021 data.³ The experts then propose broad “state and community interventions,” including

22
23 ³ The 2021 National Youth Tobacco Survey reported that only 11.3% of high school students
24 reported having used an e-cigarette in the past 30 days—a level significantly lower than that existing
25 before JUUL ever even launched. *See* Matt Richtel, “Youth Vaping Declined Sharply for Second
26 Year, New Data Shows,” *The New York Times* (October 12, 2021), available at
[https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/30/health/youth-vaping-decline.html#:~:text=This%20year%2C%2011.3%20percent%20of,for%20Disease%20Control%20and%20Prevention.\(last%20visited%20September%2027,%202021\).](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/30/health/youth-vaping-decline.html#:~:text=This%20year%2C%2011.3%20percent%20of,for%20Disease%20Control%20and%20Prevention.(last%20visited%20September%2027,%202021).)

27 SFUSD has also recently received additional local data for the 2021-22 school year. But SFUSD
28 has refused to produce that data to Defendants, claiming that it contains unspecified errors that it is
working with the survey administrator to correct. Defendants continue their efforts to obtain this
critical data (and SFUSD’s communications with the survey administrator regarding the purported

1 individualized medicinal “treatment for those [in the community] who are using tobacco products,”
2 hands-on “clinical education and training” for health-care workers in San Francisco County, and a
3 new system of electronic-record-sharing for primary care physicians in San Francisco. JLI MSJ Ex.
4 4, 2/1/22 Kelder Rep. 82; JLI MSJ Ex. 5, 1/28/22 Winickoff Rep. 47–82.

5 But there is no guarantee, at least under SFUSD’s present trial plan, that the nuisance the
6 jury finds would actually be community-wide. The scope of any nuisance in SFUSD is hotly
7 contested. SFUSD’s evidence focuses in part on only very specific schools—*e.g.*, a broken door in
8 Balboa High School, *see* SFUSD MSJ Opp. at 46, 82, or an “incident involving student vaping” at
9 Presidio Middle School, *id.* But other schools did not have vaping problems. The principal at
10 Marina Middle School acknowledged “that she does not have a vaping problem period,” and “had
11 [only] one incident . . . in [the] seven years she ha[d] been” at that school. *See* JLI MSJ Ex. 17,
12 6/4/2021 Marina Middle School Vaping Mitigation & Prevention Rep., at 14 (statement of Ginny
13 Daws). A former assistant principal and principal at SFUSD’s Lowell High School testified that
14 she had never caught students using e-cigarettes on campus. JLI MSJ Ex. 18, 9/21/21 Swett Dep.
15 68:20–22. And the conduct that purportedly created any nuisance, the types of harms the nuisance
16 is causing, and whether that nuisance extends throughout SFUSD—and whether it extends to all of
17 San Francisco County, as SFUSD’s experts contend—is all contested as well.⁴

18 SFUSD’s trial plan glosses over these significant issues and so invites an “abatement” phase
19 that would be disconnected from, or that would relitigate, whatever nuisance the jury finds in Phase
20 1. The trial plan risks, for example, that the jury will find Defendants liable for a “nuisance” because
21 of problems the jury may believe exists in only certain places—not necessarily everywhere. But
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23 _____
24 errors) as soon as possible. Defendants intend to seek the Court’s intervention if this issue cannot
be resolved.

25 ⁴ As discussed in Defendants’ motions for summary judgment, SFUSD has not actually presented
26 evidence to support past damages for the harms it purports to identify in its complaint. *See, e.g.*,
27 Dkt. No. 3396 at 20–23. The Court should simply enter judgment against SFUSD’s claims and
28 moot the need for a detailed trial plan, but regardless, SFUSD’s contentions regarding the scope of
the nuisance are at a minimum opposed by numerous facts that, if the claims go to trial, the jury will
consider in the liability phase of the trial.

1 SFUSD cannot premise county-wide relief on a nuisance that the jury may have believed involved
2 only a single school or a specific neighborhood. That would tread on the jury’s verdict and would
3 also violate basic principles governing bifurcated trials. Bifurcated proceedings are appropriate only
4 where “the issue to be retried is so distinct and separable from the others that a trial of it alone may
5 be had without injustice.” *Gasoline Prods.*, 283 U.S. at 500. That means the phases of the trial
6 cannot involve re-litigating the scope of the nuisance. Instead, the Phase 1 liability proceedings
7 must make clear *what* exactly (if anything) Defendants are liable for, including the breadth of the
8 nuisance, what types of harms it is causing, and the specific conduct by Defendants that was a
9 significant factor in bringing about those harms. Otherwise, the verdict will not “establish[] . . .
10 material facts,” *id.*, and there will be intertwined issues that will be inevitably be-litigated in Phase
11 3—if Phase 3 is ultimately necessary. The parties should not proceed to abatement without having
12 actually determined what they ought to be abating.

13 SFUSD needs to offer a plan to avoid this problem. Regardless of what the specific solution
14 entails, the point is the same: Plaintiffs should not be permitted to assume that merely finding a
15 nuisance—of any size or scope—is enough to automatically debate what abatement is appropriate
16 for all of San Francisco County or to assume that all the conduct SFUSD attacks at trial must have
17 contributed to any nuisance found by the jury. Indeed, if the Court is going to “follow the jury’s
18 implicit or explicit factual determinations” as to liability when deciding whether to award
19 abatement, then the Court should be fully informed and armed with the specifics of what exactly
20 that liability determination might be. *Teutscher*, 835 F.3d at 944.⁵

21 **III. THE UNCERTAINTY CREATED BY SFUSD’S TRIAL PLAN REQUIRES THAT**
22 **SFUSD IMMEDIATELY PROVIDE A DETAILED, REALISTIC TRIAL PLAN.**

23 “District courts have broad discretion in allowing supplemental pleadings.” *Illumina, Inc v.*
24 *Qiagen N.V.*, 2016 WL 6962865, at *1 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 29, 2016) (quoting *Keith v. Volpe*, 858 F.2d
25 467, 473 (9th Cir. 1998)). This Court should exercise that broad authority here. Defendants asked
26 that SFUSD provide its trial plan in writing, *see* Dkt. 3534 at 1, in part because understanding the

27 ⁵ In the opioids cases, for example, the jury’s findings were specific: the jury specifically determined whether there was
28 a nuisance in the relevant “Lake and Trumbull Counties,” not just anywhere in Ohio. *In re Nat’l Prescription Opiate*
Litig., 2022 WL 3443614, at *12–13 (N.D. Ohio Aug. 17, 2022).

1 specifics of the plan is important to understanding whether there are Seventh Amendment concerns
2 caused by the specific ordering of Plaintiff's experts and the specific nuisance that Plaintiff is asking
3 the jury to find. SFUSD did not do so until now. And as discussed above, that plan (because it is
4 so vague) in fact creates significant Seventh Amendment and prejudice concerns.

5 Those concerns by their very nature must be addressed before trial—once Mr. Dorn testifies,
6 or once the jury returns its verdict, there will be no way to undo those events on the back end. *C.f.*
7 *United States v. Pino-Noriega*, 189 F.3d 1089, 1096 (9th Cir. 1999) (noting that “once a jury has
8 reached a verdict . . . that’s too big a bell to unring”). SFUSD should therefore be required to provide
9 a far more detailed trial plan that specifically addresses how SFUSD will present its case without
10 violating the Seventh Amendment. Doing so “would serve the purpose of judicial efficiency and
11 enable the parties to [better] resolve the whole controversy.” *Quiagen*, 2016 WL 6962865, at *2
12 (citing *Planned Parenthood of S. Ariz. v. Neely*, 130 F.3d 400, 402 (9th Cir. 1997)).

13 CONCLUSION

14 For the foregoing reasons, the Court should reject SFUSD's proposed trial plan and require
15 the district to immediately provide a new plan that address, in detail, how SFUSD plans to try its
16 case without running afoul of the Seventh Amendment and its clear command that “no fact tried by
17 a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States.”

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2 Dated: October 3, 2022

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By: /s/ Renee D. Smith

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Defendants' Response To Plaintiff's Trial Plan And Brief On Related Legal Issues